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## CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A switch for directing the path of a light signal, said switch comprising:  
a member comprising an opening and a reflecting surface disposed such that the light signal defines an angle of incidence relative to the member;  
first, second and third light transmitting elements, said first and third elements being disposed to receive first and second light signals from said member; and  
means for moving said member so as to change the angle of incidence of the light signal relative to the member so as to selectively position said opening intermediate said first and second light transmitting elements, so as to optically couple said first and second light transmitting elements.
2. (currently amended) A switch according to claim 1 wherein said member movement means selectively position said reflector reflecting surface intermediate said first and second light transmitting elements, so as to optically couple said first and third light transmitting elements.
3. (currently amended) A switch according to claim 1 wherein said actuator means for moving said member moves said member so as to selectively position said opening intermediate a portion of the optical path between said first and second light transmitting elements and simultaneously position said reflecting surface intermediate another portion of the optical path between said first and second light transmitting elements, so as to optically couple said first and second light transmitting elements and simultaneously, to optically couple said first and third light transmitting elements.
4. (original) A switch according to claim 1 wherein said member comprises a cantilever beam having a mirror surface containing a hole.
5. (original) A switch according to claim 1 wherein said first, second and third light transmitting elements comprise fiberoptic elements.

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6. (currently amended) A switch according to claim 1 wherein said actuator device means for moving said member comprises a microelectromechanical (MEM) device.

7. (original) A switch according to claim 1 further comprising a plurality of sets of first, second and third light transmitting elements, and said member further comprising a plurality of openings and reflectors corresponding with said sets of light transmitting elements.

8. (currently amended) A switch according to claim 7 wherein said holes openings have a direct one-to-one correlation with said sets of light transmitting elements.

9. (currently amended) An optical attenuator operative to attenuate an optical signal, comprising:  
a member comprising an opening and a reflecting surface, disposed such that the light signal defines an angle of incidence relative to the member;  
first, second and third light transmitting elements, said first and third elements being disposed to receive first and second light signals from said member; and  
means for moving said member so as to change the angle of incidence of the light signal relative to the member so as to selectively position said opening intermediate a portion of the optical path between said first and second light transmitting elements.

10. (currently amended) An optical attenuator according to claim 9 wherein said member movement means simultaneously position said reflector reflecting surface intermediate another portion of the optical path between said first and second light transmitting elements, so as to optically couple said first and second light transmitting elements, and simultaneously, to optically couple said first and third light transmitting elements.

11. (currently amended) An optical attenuator according to claim 9 wherein said member movement means selectively position said hole opening intermediate said first and second light transmitting elements, so as to optically couple said first and second light transmitting elements.

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12. (currently amended) An optical attenuator according to claim 9 wherein said member movement means selectively position said reflector reflecting surface intermediate said first and second light transmitting elements, so as to optically couple said first and third light transmitting elements.

13. (original) An optical attenuator according to claim 9 wherein said member comprises a cantilever beam having a mirror surface containing an opening.

14. (original) An optical attenuator according to claim 9 wherein said first second and third light transmitting elements comprise fiberoptic elements.

15. (currently amended) An optical attenuator according to claim 9 wherein said actuator device means for moving said member comprises a microelectromechanical (MEM) device.

16. (original) An optical attenuator according to claim 9 further comprising a plurality of sets of first, second and third light transmitting elements, and said member further comprising a plurality of openings and reflectors corresponding with said sets of light transmitting elements.

17. (currently amended) An optical attenuator according to claim 16 wherein said openings have a direct, one-to-one correlation with said sets of light transmitting elements.

18. (previously withdrawn) A method for fabricating a switch for directing the path of a light signal, said method comprising:

selecting a SOI wafer having two silicon layers and a layer of silicon dioxide therebetween;

patterning the top and bottom sides of said wafer;

etching an initial portion via-hole in said bottom side of said silicon wafer;

etching at least one V-groove and depositing a mirror on said top side of said silicon wafer;

growing a thin layer of silicon dioxide on said at least one V-groove and said mirror;

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removing a film of silicon nitride on said silicon wafer said silicon nitride film being formed during manufacture of said wafer;

etching an opening in said mirror;

removing said thin layer of silicon dioxide from said mirror surface and removing a portion of said layer of silicon dioxide in said top side of said silicon wafer to form a via-hole through the entirety of said wafer wherein said via-hole is formed between the edges of said initial portion via-hole in said bottom side of said silicon wafer and said via-hole is formed between the edges of said mirror and said V-grooves in said top side of said silicon wafer;

oxidizing said wafer with silicon dioxide;

metallizing first and second surfaces of said wafer, said first and second surfaces forming first and second electrodes, respectively; and

applying contact pads to said silicon wafer in electrical connection to said electrodes.

19. (previously withdrawn) A method for fabricating a switch for directing the path of a light signal according to claim 18 wherein the step of realizing a via-hole in said bottom side of said silicon wafer includes using a wet etchant.

20. (previously withdrawn) A method for fabricating a switch for directing the path of a light signal according to claim 19 wherein said wet etchant is KOH.

21. (previously withdrawn) A method for fabricating a switch for directing the path of a light signal according to claim 18 wherein the step of realizing said V-grooves and said mirror in said top side of said silicon wafer includes using a wet etchant.

22. (previously withdrawn) A method for fabricating a switch for directing the path of a light signal according to claim 21 wherein said wet etchant is KOH.

23. (previously withdrawn) A method for fabricating a switch for directing the path of light according to claim 18 wherein the step of removing a film of silicon nitride formed on said silicon wafer includes using deep reactive ion etching.

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24. (previously withdrawn) A method for fabricating a switch for directing the path of light according to claim 18 wherein the step of realizing an opening in said mirror includes using deep reactive ion etching.
25. (previously withdrawn) A method for fabricating a switch for directing the path of light according to claim 24 wherein the step of realizing an opening in said mirror further comprises two timed applications of deep reactive ion etching wherein said opening is realized at the conclusion of said applications.
26. (previously withdrawn) A method for fabricating a switch for directing the path of light according to claim 18 wherein the step of removing said thin layer of silicon dioxide from said mirror surface, and removing said layer of silicon dioxide to form a via-hole through the entirety of said wafer includes using a buffered oxide etchant to remove said silicon dioxide.
27. (previously withdrawn) A method for fabricating a switch for directing the path of light according to claim 18 wherein the step of oxidizing said wafer with silicon dioxide includes oxidizing said wafer with a layer of about 100 nm of silicon dioxide.
28. (previously withdrawn) A method for fabricating a switch for directing the path of light according to claim 18 wherein one of said first and second metalized surfaces is a reflecting surface of said mirror.
29. (previously withdrawn) A method for fabricating a switch for directing the path of light according to claim 18 wherein the step of metalizing said first and second surfaces of said wafer comprises covering said surfaces with an adhesive substance and then with an electrode substance.
30. (previously withdrawn) A method for fabricating a switch for directing the path of light according to claim 29 wherein said adhesive substance is chrome.

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31. (previously withdrawn) A method for fabricating a switch for directing the path of light according to claim 30 wherein said electrode substance is gold.

32. (previously withdrawn) A method for fabricating an optical attenuator, said method comprising:

selecting a SOI wafer having two silicon layers and a layer of silicon dioxide therebetween;

patterning the top and bottom sides of said wafer/etching an initial portion via-hole in said bottom side of said silicon wafer;

etching at least one V-groove and depositing a mirror on said top side of said silicon wafer;

growing a thin layer of silicon dioxide on said at least one V-groove and said mirror/-removing a film of silicon nitride on said silicon wafer, said film formed during manufacture of said wafer;

etching an opening in said mirror;

removing said thin layer of silicon dioxide on said mirror surface/ and removing a portion of said layer of silicon dioxide in said top side of said silicon wafer to form a via-hole through the entirety of said wafer, wherein said via-hole is formed between the edges of said initial portion via-hole in said j bottom side of said silicon wafer and said via-hole is formed between the edges of said mirror and said V-grooves on said top side of said silicon wafer;

oxidizing said wafer with silicon dioxide;

metalizing first and second surfaces of said wafer, said first and second surfaces forming first and second electrodes, respectively; and

applying contact pads to said silicon wafer in electrical connection to said electrodes.

33. (currently amended) A method for directing the path of a light signal, said method comprising:

providing a switch for directing the path of a light signal, said switch comprising:

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a member comprising an opening and a reflecting surface, disposed such that the light signal defines an angle of incidence relative to the member;

first, second and third light transmitting elements, said first and third elements being disposed to receive first and second light signals from said member; and

means for moving said member so as to change the angle of incidence of the light signal relative to the member so as to selectively position said hole opening intermediate said first and second light transmitting elements, so as to optically couple said first and second light transmitting elements;

positioning said hole opening of said member intermediate first and second light transmitting elements, wherein said switch optically couples said first and second light transmitting elements.

34. (original) A method for directing the path of a light signal of claim 33 wherein said member movement means selectively position said reflecting surface intermediate said first and second light transmitting elements, so as to optically couple said first and third light transmitting elements/ said method further comprising a method step of positioning said reflecting surface, wherein said switch optically couples said first and third light transmitting elements.